

Appl. No. : 09/993,296
Filed : November 14, 2001

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed May 20, 2004.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 through 19 and 22 through 33 were indicated to be allowed. Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected in view of the prior art.

Although Applicant does not agree with the Examiner concerning the propriety of the rejections of Claims 20 and 21, these claims have been canceled herein to facilitate issuance of the remaining allowed claims in this application. Accordingly, Applicant has no occasion to comment on the prior art rejections. However, Applicant intends to pursue these or similar claims in one or more continuing applications.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowability of Claims 1 through 19. Concerning Claim 19, however, Applicant notes that this Claim was withdrawn in an Amendment filed August 29, 2003 as directed to a non-elected species, pursuant to the restriction requirement mailed July 29, 2003. In view of the foregoing, the Applicant assumes that the indication of allowability of Claim 19 was inadvertent, and that Claim 19 remains canceled.

However, if the Examiner intended to withdraw the restriction requirement and allow Claim 19, Applicant would like to expressly authorize the Examiner to reenter Claim 19 by way of Examiner's Amendment.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims of the present application are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If, however, any questions remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned so that any such matter may be promptly resolved.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 9/20/04

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